

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

**January 3, 2018**

County Court met with Judge Dan Joyce presiding with Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois.

Public present was Owyhee Watershed Council member Lou Wettstein and John Braese of the Malheur Enterprise.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of December 20, 2017 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **ORDER APPOINTING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRO TEMPORE**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Order GO-01-18, Order Appointing Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore for Malheur County Justice Court During the 2018 Calendar Year. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2018-0025

### **RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF REFUNDS BY TAX COLLECTOR**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Resolution R18-01, In the Matter of Authorization of Refunds by Tax Collector. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2018-0024

### **ORDER - INVESTING ANY SINKING FUND, BOND FUND, OR SURPLUS FUNDS**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Order GO-02-18, In the Matter of Investing Any Sinking Fund, Bond Fund or Surplus Funds. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2018-0026

### **LEASE AMENDMENT - ERLEBACH**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Fifth Amendment to Lease Agreement with Bruce and Teresa Erlebach. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The amendment extends the lease agreement to June 30, 2020; the rent amount is \$3,000 monthly, beginning July 1, 2018; and is for the Justice Court facility. See instrument # 2018-0022

### **TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - CASTRO**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Malheur County Sheriff Deputy - employment of PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) retiree Temporary Employment Agreement with Roy Castro. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Castro will continue to work as a Correctional Officer after his retirement. See instrument # 2018-0023

### **FAIR ADVISORY BOARD**

Commissioner Wilson moved to appoint Stephanie Ainsworth as a member of the Fair Advisory Board. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **FAIRGROUNDS - UPDATE**

Fairgrounds Manager Lynelle Christiani met with the Court and provided a monthly update. The Holiday Fair in December had 50 vendors one weekend and 53 vendors the other weekend; approximately two-thirds of those vendors have requested booths for next year. The flooring project in the Commercial Building is finished and most of the new lighting is installed. Last week the Fruitland Alumni held an event in the Commercial Building; and two new groups are holding wedding receptions at the facility. Bids for repair of the Horse Barn, Loafing Shed, and Hog Barn will be opened tomorrow, January 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Fair Office.

Ms. Christiani inquired if contact had been made with the Brewer family; Judge Joyce had visited with Tom Brewer but had no additional information to share.

Ms. Christiani visited about the security program for the annual Fair event. Search and Rescue has provided security for the Fair for many years; last year several vendors reported theft events and the security program did not work; and she does not believe it will work going forward. The Fair Board would like to have a meeting with the Court, Sheriff's Office, Ontario Police Department and Ontario Fire Department to discuss security for the Fair. The budget for security is \$1500; Ms. Christiani intends to apply for grants for more lighting at the fairgrounds; Judge Joyce suggested also applying for grants for security cameras.

The bid documents for rebuilding of Givin Hall and the Small Animal Barn should be available by the end of the month.

Ms. Christiani answered questions from the Court. It is hoped to have a caretaker in place through Euvalcree in February.

## **OWYHEE WATERSHED COUNCIL AND JORDAN VALLEY COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA - UPDATE**

Nicole Sullivan, Michaelann Seiders, Kala Golden, and Eric Morrison provided an annual update on the Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) and the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area (JV CWMA); also present was OWC Board Member Louis Wettstein. Ms. Sullivan explained that in 2017, OWC secured \$751,111 in Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funding for restoration projects, the JV CWMA, Council Support, Technical Assistance, and Small Grants. There were 4 on-farm restoration water quality projects: 144 acres in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement area - Flood to Sprinkler conversions; 89 acres in the Big Bend Area - Flood to Sprinkler conversions; and one, Upland and Range restoration project for treating Medusahead south of Jordan Valley in the Parsnip Peak area. (The Parsnip Peak Medusahead treatment project is a multi-year project, combined with a previous grant, to survey and treat Medusahead on private and state lands.) Council Support funding is biennial funding for operating costs. Technical Assistance grant funding is to create a database of 15 years of projects. \$100,000 Small Grants funding was awarded for 2017-19. JV CWMA was awarded 2 Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) grants and 1 OWEB grant. The watershed council is also working with Trout Unlimited in a High Desert Drought Resilient Ranching - Regional Conservation Partnership Program, in partnership with NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service); the project is looking for restoration projects that benefit Red Band Trout, Columbia Spotted Frog, and Sage Grouse, in the Upper Malheur area and in the Owyhee area.

Ms. Seiders reviewed the 2017 Owyhee 5th Grade Field Day, held April 26 & 27, 2017. Over 900 students participated in the Field Day; and 100 FFA members assisted in the event. Last year's event was held at Cherry Creek State Park and Oregon State Parks donated the facility. There were 28 Field Day Stations. The event is funded by local donations from the local community; students receive a T-Shirt and lunch prepared by the Nyssa School Cafeteria. Ms. Golden reviewed the Small Grants funding, and Large Grant submissions. The Small Grants Biennium is 2017-2019; OWEB modified the allowable funding cap from \$10,000 to \$15,000 - the funding cap is determined by the local grant team and they have decided to keep the cap at \$10,000 to allow funds to benefit as many projects as possible. Seven projects have been approved for Small Grants funding; all are irrigation and piping water quality improvements and total \$65,400. Another change to the program is an option to apply for additional funding if 95% of the awarded funding is allocated by June 30, 2018; the local grant team will meet in April 2018 to determine if its remaining funds will be allocated and additional funding applied for, or if its remaining funds will be spread out the remainder of the biennium. Three Large Grant applications were submitted during the Fall 2017 cycle; all 3 grants are in the Jordan Valley area; 2 are flood to sprinkler irrigation conversions and 1 is an invasive annual grass treatment. Two, flood to sprinkler irrigation conversion projects will be applied for in the Spring cycle. Additionally, Ms. Golden and Mr. Morrison will be meeting with Idaho entities this Spring on a continuation of the Parsnip Peak area project as some of the properties fall on the state border.

Mr. Morrison updated the Court on the JV CWMA. ODFW contributed funding to assist with treatment of over 200 acres of Whitetop in the Crowley area. 1300 acres of Medusahead were treated in the Parsnip Peak area; and 360 acres of Whitetop were treated in the Jordan Valley area. Total acres of noxious weeds treated on the Oregon side of the JV CWMA were 2715; the Idaho side was just under 1000 acres. The County Weed Control department is a strong supporter of the JV CWMA; and the JV CWMA also partners with the Malheur County Vector District for office space in Jordan Valley.

Mr. Wettstein commended the team and their positive work.

Copies of the Owyhee Watershed Council Watershed Action Plan were left with the Court members; the document is an outline of a process to fulfill the vision and mission of the Owyhee Watershed Council and is a working document and is available from the Owyhee Watershed Council.

Those present answered questions from the Court members.

See instrument # 2017-0042 for the watershed annual report; and instrument #2017-0043 for the JV CWMA Year End Report.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.